

Co-Chair Power, Co-Chair Dembrow, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Darby Ayers-Flood, and I am the Mayor of Talent, speaking on my own behalf in support of strengthening HB2020.

In the past few years, residents of Talent have come together to start implementing concrete steps towards transitioning our city to clean energy and greater energy efficiency.

Talent residents have developed and implemented energy efficiency programs, developed a clean energy plan for the city and are working to try to get the first community solar projects moving. Our community has set bold goals, including 100% clean energy by 2030.

Transitioning to clean energy will take all of us doing our part. It is only fair that all polluting industries do their part, and that there are no exemptions.

Last year our region took a huge hit because of smoke and wildfires. Without bold action on climate, our region will continue to feel the devastating impacts of increased wildfire seasons.

We need to start transitioning our communities to renewable energy, and energy efficiency now.

But EQUALLY important is that this bill is about job creation. I am confident that we will create new jobs for our young people to stay in southern Oregon, and boost our local economy. Jobs that will provide living wages to support Oregon families, help students pay loans, provide economy that will flow through our own communities.